

Dear Committee Members:

The staff and Board of The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc. enthusiastically assert its support for The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in their tireless efforts on behalf of the women of Connecticut.

The Center for Women and Families is "dedicated to strengthening women and families and to eliminating violence and abuse through education, intervention, advocacy, and community collaboration."

The work of the PCSW towards empowering young women to seek leadership roles in their communities, establishing and sustaining healthy body images, furthering legislative issue affecting the health and well being of women in our state, and educating businesses on the prevention and identification of sexual harassment speak directly to our mission and our goal of creating communities where all citizens have the opportunity to thrive.

The PCSW's legislative work in training leaders about the nature and scope of discrimination, serving as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with services for women, promoting consideration of women for governmental positions, and working with state agencies to access programs and practices as they affect women has been an invaluable service to both CWF and our community.

In January 2008, The Center hosted its first Legislative Breakfast with attendees including Teresa Younger, Executive Director of PCSW, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, and representatives from Christopher Shays' Office and from First Selectman, Mayor and superintendent offices for all six towns in our service community. The purpose of this event was to educate our public officials about the devastating effects of sexual and domestic violence on our communities and to enhance our partnerships with policy makers.

One of the highlights of this event was the closing speech delivered by Ms. Younger, which not only exemplified her and PCSW's understanding of women's needs in CT, it confirmed that all facets of the community working collaboratively is paramount to ensure social justice for women and girls.

In the dismal economic times that we now face, the State of Connecticut cannot afford to lose a commission dedicated to supporting vulnerable and underserved populations in our state. As such, we urge you to reconsider your decision and

research the far-reaching impact that the PCSW has on a great number of community agencies working to empower and strengthen women and girls and, therefore, the vast number of women, their male and female children and girls in general for whom your current decision will adversely effect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra A. Greenwood', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Debra A. Greenwood
President/CEO

The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc.